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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

Cross Creek– FDT 1855

Difficulty: Moderate
Trail Use: Moderate
Length: 6.43 miles
Elevation: Starts at 8000 feet, ends at 9367 feet, highest point 9367 feet
Elevation Gain: +1861 feet - 531 feet = +1330 feet
Open To: Hiking, horseback riding, motorcycles, mountain biking

Access:

- From Eagle, travel west on I-70 for 13 miles to the Dotsero exit.
- Follow the signs for Sweetwater, turning north onto the Colorado River Rd., follow this road for 7 miles.
- Turn left onto Sweetwater Creek Rd., and travel for 10.5 miles until you get to the Sweetwater Campground.
- The trail can be accessed by using the Ute Trail, FDT 2031 for a 1/4 mile.

Trail Highlights:

- This trail runs parallel to Sweetwater Canyon and quickly drops down into a lush aspen forest in the first 1/2 mile and crosses Lake Creek, before a steep sagebrush and scrub oak hill.
- At the Lake Creek crossing there is a short steep offshoot from the trail that takes you to a small privately owned cave where visitors are welcome. The cave entrance has charcoal pictographs of horses and bison made by the Ute Indians over 150-200 years ago.
- At about 2 1/2 miles the trail forks, follow the right fork heading along the same direction as the canyon, to the left is Prospect– FDT 1867, this will lead you back to the Ute- FDT 2031.
- As the trail enters a large wet meadow, it becomes faint, but continues again straight across near an aspen group, from this point on the trail is fairly level passing through spruce/ fir forests with some aspen.
- After crossing the Dry Sweetwater Creek the trail ends connecting onto Sweetwater– FDT 1854, this trail can be utilized to return back to the Sweetwater Lake area, about 2 miles northwest of Sweetwater Campground.
- Early summer is the best time to find excellent displays of lupine, white and purple peavine, flax, sulfur flowers, wild geraniums, locoweed and scarlet gilia.

Important Information:

- ALL DISTANCES ARE ONE WAY.
- PLEASE HELP PRESERVE THE CAVE BY NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE GRAFFITI!!

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

THIS MAP IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY, NOT FOR ACTUAL LAND NAVIGATION. THE WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST STRONGLY SUGGESTS PURCHASING A TOPOGRAPHIC TRAIL MAP AND COMPASS PRIOR TO BEGINNING A HIKING TRIP.

